

**REMARKS**

With the addition of new claim 15 and the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 8, 10, 11, and 13, claims 9, 12, 14, and 15 are pending in the present application. It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references.

With respect to the objection to the Abstract, the Abstract has been amended so as to obviate the present objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 12 is allowable. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the subject matter of its base claim. The Examiner will further note that claim 9 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 12. The Examiner will further note that claim 14 has been amended herein without prejudice to include subject matter analogous to that of claim 12. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 9, 12, and 14 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claims have been canceled herein without prejudice, so as to obviate the remaining claim rejections.

New claim 15 has been added herein. The new claim does not add new matter and is supported by the present application, including the specification. Claim 15 depends from claim 14 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14.

Accordingly, all of pending claims 9, 12, 14, and 15 are allowable.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as originally presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 9, 12, 14, and 15 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /  / (Reg. No. 59,210)

Gerard A. Messina  
(Reg. No. 35,952)

KENYON & KENYON LLP  
One Broadway  
New York, New York 10004  
(212) 425-7200

**CUSTOMER NO. 26646**